Tiruvalla and Kottayam Municipalities might be asked to pay a reasonable share of the tolls collected by them to the Changanachery Municipality. There was no toll on the Changanachery-Vazhur road which bore a heavy traffic. The toll levied on the Kottayam-Kumili road was exclusively on vehicles going to Kottayam from the eastern hills while the vehicles that resorted to Changanachery were from Mallappalli, Manimala, Karukachal and other places. These were numerous and paid no toll. The opening of a tollgate at the eastern end of the town on this road would be equitable and might be sanctioned.

The Changanachery fish market was one of the biggest fish markets in Southern India and the number of people that resorted to it on every market day was large. Numerous boats and canoes frequented the canal close by on the market days; but the canal was so narrow and shallow that it could not admit even half the number of boats that sought entrance. This canal should therefore be widened and deepened. The Government had already promised to take up this question early. This promise should be redeemed.

The next urgent need was the provision of a crane and a shed at the market landing. This had been represented at several sessions of the Assembly and at the 24th session, the Dewan said that an estimate for the work would be called for. The work should be taken up without further delay.

The member's next request was for the appointment of a lady doctor at the Changanachery hospital. It was hardly necessary for him to advance arguments for this request and to describe the hardship and the sufferings the women especially those in expectency were subject to on account of the absence of a lady doctor.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Joseph, it is hoped to provide funds in next year's budget for constructing a travellers' bungalow at Changanachery; and after that has been constructed, the question of transferring the site of the present bungalow to the Municipality will be considered.

An estimate for nearly Rs. 8,000 for widening the Changanachery-Vazhur road is awaiting execution for want of funds.

The maintenance of roads within municipal limits has been retransferred to the Public Works Department; and the whole question of granting a share of the tolls to Municipalities should, as I have already told several members, lie over till the general question of maintenance of roads in municipal areas is decided.

The Chief Engineer has been asked to take up the work of deepening and widening the Fish Market canal next year, if funds are available.

He will also report on the question of providing a crane and a shed at the market landing.

122. Needs of the Minachil taluk.

MR. V. K. KESAVA PILLAI (*Minachil taluk, Group I*) said hat the Government were not making adequate provision for public

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

works in North Travancore. Minachil was an agricultural taluk and the people there were agriculturists. There were no proper means of communication for taking their products to the markets, with the result that a large portion of the value of their articles had to be spent on transport. There were very many incomplete ryots' roads which had to be completed by the construction of bridges and culverts and maintained properly. The Government should pay particular attention to this. Passing on to the immediate needs of the taluk, the member first urged the need for a bridge across the Minachil river at Erattupetta. Erattupetta was gaining in importance because of a market, a V. M. school and certain flourishing estates. The Minachil river and its tributary divided Erattupetta into three bits and communication between one bit and another was difficult. The people were experiencing great hardship thereby. The need for constructing a bridge at Erattupetta in order to remove this hardship had been urged upon the Government several times. Last year, the same subject was pressed and the Government stated that the matter was under consideration. In reply to an interpellation in the Legislative Council it was stated that this bridge must wait till the completion of the Palai bridge. This bridge was an urgent need and provision should be made for it in the next year's budget.

A bridge at the Kalattur *kadavu* was another urgent need. A local inspection would convince anybody that this was not a costly bridge. The construction of this bridge should therefore be started early.

The work on the sanctioned bridge at Palai on the Palai-Ponkunnam road should be commenced immediately. As a result of incessant representations, the work was commenced but before the bridge could be finished, it was washed away by the floods. Provision was made in the budget for 1106 for reconstructing this bridge but the amount lapsed. The necessary provision should be made in the next year's budget and the work started early.

The ryots' road from the 30th mile of the Erattupetta-Kanjirapalli road should be completed and taken over for departmental maintenance. The total length of this road was only 12 miles and only half a mile remained to be completed. This road would considerably reduce the distance between Kottayam and Peermade and would greatly facilitate transport of articles from Peermade to Erattupetta. Erattupetta would also rise in importance. A bridge had already been constructed by the people. Only a few culverts remained to be finished.

The necessary culverts should be constructed in the Bharananganam-Tidanad ryots' road also. This road has been taken over for departmental maintenance and the provision once made for the construction of culverts lapsed. The culverts on the road connecting this with the Lalam-Ponkunnam road should also be constructed and a *junghar* provided at the Minachil river where it crossed the first mentioned road.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The following were the other public works required in the taluk:—

(1) Conversion into a cart road of the old village road from Erattupetta to Arakulam.

(2) Taking over for departmental maintenance the following ryots' roads:—

(*a*) the Pravittanam-Plassanal road;

(*b*) the road joining the Melukavu and the Erattupetta-Arakulam roads;

(*c*) the road from Edapadi on the Lalam-Erattupetta road to the 3rd mile of the Lalam-Todupuzha road;

(*d*) the road from Bharananganam to Pravittanam; and

(*e*) the road from Mundapalattunkal passing through Ezhacheril to Ramapuram.

(3) Improvement of the Ramapuram—Koottattukulam road.

Lastly, the member requested that the English middle school at Bharananganam should be raised to a high school.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Your last request, Mr. Kesava Pillai, about the school, will be referred to the Director of Public Instruction.

Three bridges you want. Two of them at least must wait until the Minachil bridge is finished. A bridge has been sanctioned at Pala *kadavu* and the estimate and design for that are under preparation.

The remainder of your requests concern roads, some of which seem to be unimportant. Those which are ryots' roads will be dealt with under the rules; and the whole list of your requirements will be sent to the Public Works Department for necessary action being taken.

123. Needs of the Minachil taluk.

MR. K. GEORGE JOSEPH (*Minachil taluk, Group II*) first spoke about the need for constructing a bridge across the Minachil river on the Lalam-Ponkunnam road. It was as a result of repeated representations that the Government sanctioned the construction of the bridge, but before it could be completed, it was washed away by the floods. The people were experiencing great inconvenience and hardship for want of a bridge. It should be constructed immediately.

The next need was a road from the 1st mile of the Lalam-Ramapuram road to meet the Marangattupalli road. This road was constructed by the people and a portion of it was fit for cart traffic. There was no bridge to be constructed on this road but only a few culverts. The lands to be acquired were not extensive. This road should be constructed at an early date. It would serve as a short cut between Peermade and Ernakulam.

The people on the southern bank of the Minachil river were put to much hardship for want of road communications. A road from the Lalam-Ponkunnam road to the Kidangur temple would satisfy a long-felt want.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly